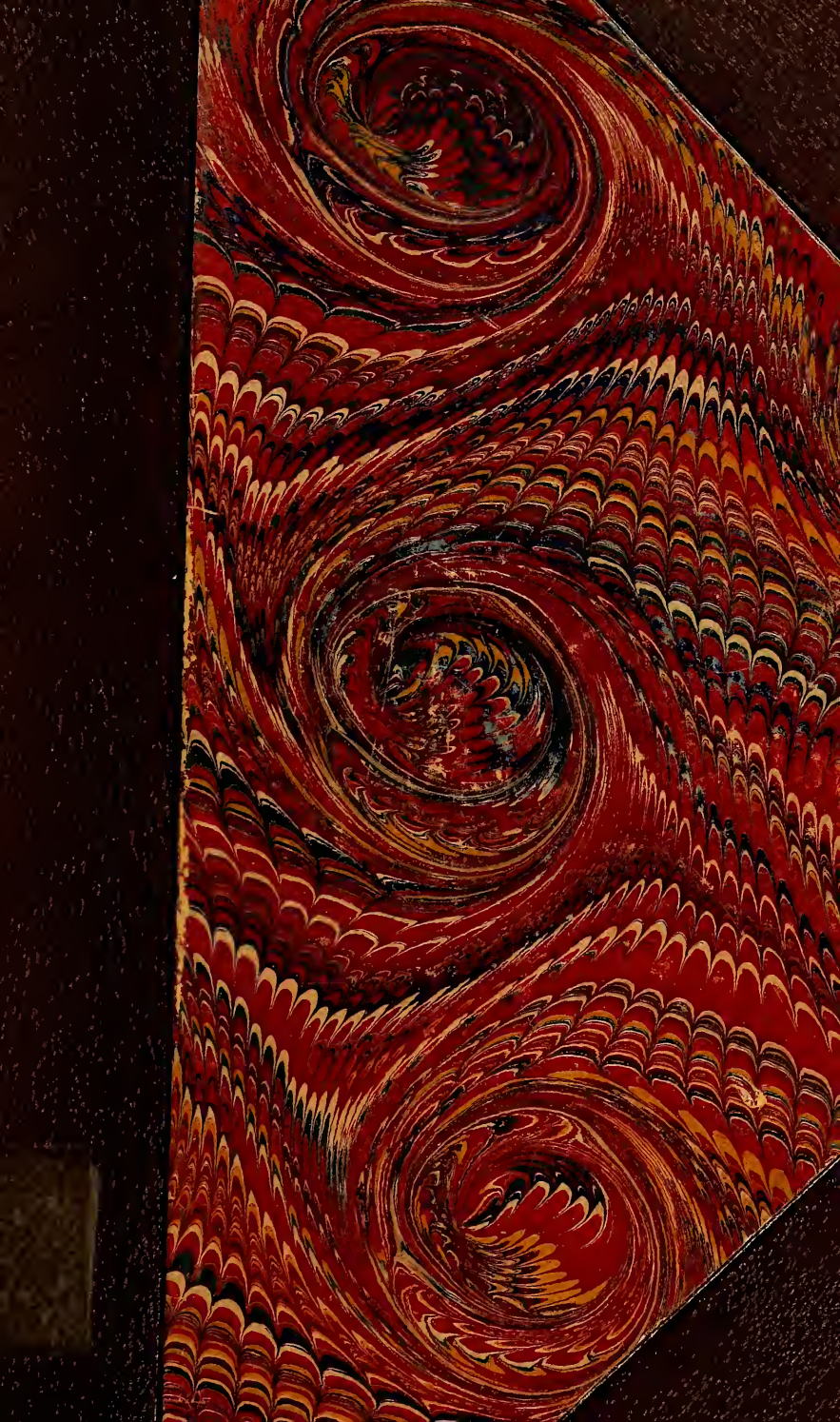




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OCCASIONAL PAPER.

No. 13.

JANUARY 19TH, 1901.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 16th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Hon. Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

Dr. Campbell's paper, entitled, "National Education and Training of the Blind," is printed *in extenso*, as it seemed impossible to make excerpts where all the matter is weighty and valuable.

At the beginning of another year, the Editor wishes to appeal strongly to the Secretaries of *all* the various Institutions and Societies for the Blind to send him a copy of their respective annual reports as soon as published, and he will be glad to receive any information, referring to the Blind, which is likely to prove useful and interesting. At the same time he desires to express his cordial thanks to all those who have readily given him assistance hitherto in this respect.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. It is with much regret that we have to record the death of Lieut.-Col. Henry Lewis, which occurred last month. Col. Lewis was secretary for many years of the Workshop for the Blind at 258, Tottenham Court Road, and devoted his time and abilities in trying to find constant employment for the 60 blind men and women under his special care. He saw a good deal of active service, and rising from the ranks retired in 1884 as Lieut.-Colonel of the 7th (Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards.

2. Mr. W. H. Charsley, M.A., the founder of Charsley's, now Marcon's Hall, Oxford, died some weeks ago. He went to Oxford in the forties, and during his university career, was rendered blind through an accident. He, however, went on with his course, and took fourth class honours both in classics and mathematics. Perhaps no man ever worked a private hall more successfully. He was also most successful and popular as a private tutor for the pass schools.

3. The Rev. R. C. Swayne has been ordained priest by the Bishop of Lichfield, and will continue his ministrations at Hednesford.

4. Miss M. C. Greene, superintendent of the instruction of the Blind under the School Board of London, ceased her work under the Board at Christmas. When first appointed superintendent, Miss Greene found 30 children under two teachers, and now on relinquishing her work there are 220 children under 14 blind teachers.

5. The results of the Examination held last July at the Smith Training College, Norwood, are as follows:—

Misses E. Swithinbank, Eliza Williamson, and Alice Micklejohn, passed their Second Year's Examination.

Misses L. Robertson, L. Steele; Messrs. J. Wright and G. Whittleton passed their First Year's Examination.

Miss M. Morris, teacher in the School for the Blind, Wavertree, Liverpool, and Miss N. Wiley, teacher in the School for the Blind, Benwell Dene, Newcastle, have also passed their First Year's Examination.

Five Students passed the Queen's Scholarship Examination.

6. At the examinations held last month at the Nottingham centre of Trinity College, London, three boys from the Nottingham Institution for the Blind entered for organ playing in the Intermediate Division, and all three were successful, two passing in the honours section. One pupil, Bertie James (a Gardner scholar), played an organ solo in a masterly manner at the prize distribution, and was enthusiastically encored.

7. The report of the Committee of the Gardner Trust appeared in the *Times*, *Morning Post*, and *Standard* of January 12th. After briefly referring to the marked progress in the care of the Blind during the past century, and drawing attention to the urgent need of adopting the Saxon system and of assisting those above 16 years of age, in order to enable them to complete their instruction in the trades by which they hope to earn their livings, the following summary of disbursements is given:—

- 1.—£4,082 towards the board and tuition of 105 scholars at various institutions.
- 2.—£2,860 to 225 pensioners.
- 3.—£1875 to 30 institutions and societies for building purposes, general expenses, &c.
- 4.—£745 towards the fees for the instruction of 59 pupils at various schools and workshops.
- 5.—£334 to 52 individuals to enable them to start or carry on a trade.

The trust received last year a legacy of £2,340. Leaflets on Prevention of Blindness, in English and in Yiddish, can be obtained *gratis* on application at the Office.

8. After many years waiting the Worcester Blind College is now to receive a permanent home of its own. The Governors have for some time, through the generosity of Miss Eliza Warrington, of Malvern Wells, possessed a freehold site in the neighbourhood of Worcester, but now through the further generosity of that lady the Governors are placed in a position to commence at once the erection of a suitable building. Tenders have been applied for and one has been accepted. One of the terms of the contract is that the building operations are to commence forthwith, and it is confidently anticipated that the building will be ready for occupation by March, 1902.

The College will be situated about a mile and a half from the City of Worcester, in a beautiful position in the Whittington Road, commanding extensive views of the Malvern Hills in the distance. The site is certainly one of the very best in the neighbourhood. The building will be of a substantial character, and

comprise a Headmaster's House and accommodation for from 20 to 25 students. The building has been so arranged that it will be quite easy to add extra wings if need should arise. It will stand in its own grounds of about four acres.

Any information about the College will be gladly given by Dr. Ranger, Hon. Sec., 17, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.

9. We understand that an excellent site, near Leatherhead, has been secured by the Committee of St. George's School for the Blind for the new building. The property consists of about 18 acres, and is already partly staked out. The building operations are to begin at once, and an order has been given to a nurseryman for the planting of 300 or 400 trees.

10. It may be interesting to those typewriters who are deaf as well as blind—alas! there are many thus doubly afflicted—to know that an attachment can be fixed on their machine at a small cost to indicate the ends of the lines in place of the bell which they cannot hear. This attachment consists of a wire so bent and arranged that it falls upon the fingers at the point where the bell would ring, no matter on what part of the keyboard the hands may be. This is another useful invention for which we are indebted to Messrs. Stainsby and Wayne.

11. The reunions of the Society, "The Fellowship of the Blind and Seeing," recommenced on January 2nd, at 8 p.m., at 16, Blenheim Mansions, Shroton Street, Marylebone, N.W., where they will be continued until further notice on the evenings of the first Wednesday in each month. The yearly subscription of 5/- includes the use of Braille books and periodicals, as well as admission with a friend to the monthly reunions, which are quite informal. A circular in Braille, setting forth the objects of the Society, and giving a brief report of its two years' work, will be sent free, if an addressed and stamped wrapper be forwarded to Miss F. E. Samuel, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 39, Chester Terrace, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

12. The new workshops in connection with the Northern Counties Blind Society were opened on July 30th in Howard Street, North Shields, by the Duchess of Northumberland. The Duke of Northumberland presided at the opening ceremony, and was supported by Earl Grey, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Mayor and Mayoress of Tynemouth, and many others, including Alderman J. F. Spence, Hon. Sec., to whose exhaustless energy this new departure is chiefly due. Mr. Spence gave a very clear and succinct account of the Society since its formation in 1870. There are already five blind men and one blind girl employed at the workshops. On the premises there is a good shop with large windows, where "nothing is sold except goods made entirely by the blind." There are over 430 blind persons on the Society's books.

13. The following books have been added to the public library, Oxford:—Pope's "Essay on Man," "Essay on Criticism" and "Universal Prayer," all in one volume. Wakeman's "History of the Christian Church." Maine's "Ancient Law." Four volumes of Butler's "Analogy." Holland's "Jurisprudence," volumes two and three—Prose and verse extracts. Justinian's "De Contrahenda Emptione." The remaining three volumes of Jevons' "Logic."

14. We are pleased to state that the Leaflet on Prevention of Blindness referred to in paragraph 15 of our last number has now been printed in Yiddish, and has been endorsed by the Rev. Dr. Adler, LL.D., the Chief Rabbi. The following is the translation of the endorsement above his signature. "I hope that our mothers will follow the good counsels given above, so that their blessed children may grow up in health and strength by the help of Almighty God, who is the Healer of all flesh.—Amen."

15. We have received a copy of a very neat "Victoria Cross Turnover Calendar" for 1901. It is printed in Braille on a Khaki Card tied with red, white, and blue ribbon. The Victoria Cross is embossed on the cover. The texts and quotations

for each month illustrate 12 virtues of a good soldier. The price is 1/9 post free in a safety cover, and the calendar, which is arranged for hanging on a wall, can be obtained from the Editor of the "Weekly Summary," The Mount, Sheire, Guildford.

16. An excellent circular from Mr. H. Wade Deacon, President of the Liverpool School for the Blind, has been issued, in which he appeals for support to carry out the Saxon system, which has been initiated by him in connection with the school. We are glad to know that his efforts have already met with considerable success, and we hope that the scheme will soon be launched.

17. We are pleased to hear that the sales at the Institution for the Blind at Edgbaston are steadily increasing, and that in November last they amounted to £648, exceeding the receipts in any previous month by £112. Three new hands have been taken on in the mat department, and a new trade for girls has been developed in making Manilla Cases for Gas Cylinders. A special needle has been introduced for the girls, who can earn from 9/- to 11/8 per week by this industry.

18. A most interesting pamphlet, entitled, "Ontario Institution for the Education and Instruction of the Blind—Where it is; What it is; What it does," has been issued by the Principal. It is copiously illustrated and gives most interesting information. The *Editor* has a few copies, which he will be pleased to forward to anyone on application.

19. Meetings to commemorate the completion of 21 years existence of the Home for Blind Men and Women, Hanley Road, Crouch Hill, London, N., will be held on Thursday, April 18th. Efforts are being made to raise £800 in commemoration of the event to be applied to the Sustentation Fund, which already amounts to £2200. The property consists of six houses and a large hall, all freehold and free from debt.

20. The four "Overend" Cottages for the aged Blind of Sheffield, referred to in No. 9, paragraph 6, were opened by Alderman Carter on September 29th. They have cost about £1870, and contain apartments for six families, and in addition some bedrooms for the use of blind children unable to return home during their holidays. There is sufficient land to erect another set of similar cottages when more funds are forthcoming.

21. The Committee of the Bradford Institute for the Blind are negotiating for the purchase of the Bradford Club, which adjoins their premises. The extra accommodation which is much needed, would thus be secured, and the necessary outlay in alterations would not be heavy.

22. The eighteenth annual meeting of the Bangor Home Teaching Society for the Blind was held on October 23rd. There are on the books 226 blind persons who are visited by two blind women.

In the library besides those in English there are 740 volumes in Welsh, some in Braille, and some in Moon types.

23. Referring to the article, entitled "Blindness in the Potteries" by Miss Mona Wilson, which appeared in No. 7, page 130, and knowing that blindness is one of the effects of lead poisoning, we have pleasure in printing the following letter:—

To the Editor of the "Blind."

November 7th, 1900.

LEADLESS GLAZE.

Sir,

Will you permit me to reply through your columns to the large number of enquirers who are writing to us as to where "Leadless Glazed" Pottery may be obtained, or seen.

Messrs. Mortlock, of Oxford Street, have now kindly arranged to have on show a very large number of specimens of ware coated with leadless glaze, sent from the Royal Worcester Works.

The ware is very beautiful and the brilliancy and variety of colours leave nothing to be desired. The effects obtained are an object lesson to those manufacturers who tell us that the art of glazing without lead is still in its experimental stage.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

GERTRUDE TUCKWELL.

Hon. Sec. Women's Trade Union League.

24. The memorial stone of the new buildings which are being erected in Nicholson Street, Edinburgh, for the industrial and commercial departments of the Royal Blind Asylum, was laid on October 16th, by Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

25. The fourth Italian Congress for the benefit of the Blind will be held this year at Milan, and the International Congress at Breslau.

RECENT LITERATURE.

During the past three months the following works have been stereotyped in Braille by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 33, Cambridge Square, Hyde Park, London, W.

	s.	d.
Dickens, C., <i>Pickwick Papers</i> , vol. ix. (interpointed) ..	3	6
" " " vol. x. 	3	0
" " " vol. xi.	3	0
Hirst, Alfred, <i>A plea for the Study of Milton by the Blind</i>	1	0
Patterson, Arthur, <i>Cromwell's Own, A Story of the great</i>		
<i>Civil Wars</i> , vols. v. and vi. each	3	6
J. K. Jerome, " <i>Three men in a boat</i> ," vols. ii. & iii. each	3	6
The <i>Epistle of St. James in Arabic</i>	0	4
<i>St. Matthew's Gospel in Foochow</i> , vol. i.	2	0
<i>Scripture Union Bible Portions for 1901</i>	0	3
Boyle, G. W., " <i>A few curious employments followed by</i>		
<i>the Blind</i> "	0	5
" <i>Forest Echoes</i> " and " <i>Swallows' Flights</i> ," a series of		
short pieces for the pianoforte, arranged by André		
Baptiste, Nos. 1 to 12 each	0	3
<i>Almanac for 1901</i> , post free	1	0

The following Books have been recently stereotyped in Moon's type by Moon's Society, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton:—

	s.	d.
II. Book of Kings in Welsh, 2 vols. 	6	0
The Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers, vols. i. and ii. each	2	9

The following works have recently been stereotyped in Braille at the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, and are published there. Apply to the Headmaster.

	s.	d.
Longfellow's "Evangeline" 	3	0
Newsholme & Scott's "Domestic Economy," unabridged		
6 vols. each 	4	6
"Hora Jucunda," vol. xxxi. (July to September, 1900.)	4	6
Hamilton's Pianoforte Instructor.. 	5	0
Life of W. E. Gladstone 	3	6
Steads' "Dr. Campbell of the Kingdom of the Blind,"		
paper covers, 1/3, boards 	2	6
The same book, printed <i>with capitals</i> , paper 1/6, cloth ..	2	9
Embossed Shorthand 	0	6
"The Holy City," a sacred cantata by Alfred R. Gaul.		
Words and Music 	5	0

A pamphlet (revised edition), post free 4d., giving information with regard to Institutions, Societies, and Classes for the Blind in England and Wales, published by the Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, under the sanction of the Committee, can be obtained on application at the office of the Trust, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

NATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THE BLIND.

A paper read at the International Congress, Paris, July, 1900.

By F. J. CAMPBELL, ESQ., LL.D.

Principal of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, London.

National Responsibility. Blind children have the same claim upon the public for education as seeing children, and their needs are greater; the public owes its blind children the opportunities for such a thorough, practical education as will fit them to become useful, happy citizens. If the Government will only provide for blind children advantages equal to those given sighted children, the great majority of the young Blind will become self-sustaining men and women. From the earliest dawn of History the Blind have been objects of pity, and as a class, have drifted on in the great stream of pauperism. Pity administers to present necessities, and alleviates distress, then leaves the object to drift more helplessly than before. We shall not lift the Blind out of pauperism, unless we give them a practical business-like training that will place them on the road to active Christian manhood, and enable them to do courageously the work God has appointed for them in this busy world.

Teachers. Much of the best instruction for blind children is given orally, and it must be evident to all, if we can take the children in sufficiently large numbers to grade them well, we can afford to employ the best teachers. "Teachers whose ideal is *to give faculty, and form character. We should care but little for the power of reproducing text-books, but value highly the diligence, intelligence, alertness, and character* of children taught and loved by good, wise, enthusiastic teachers." To whatever school blind children are sent, their future success will depend not so much upon *what* they are taught, as *how* they are taught.

Inertia of Blind Children. Blind children are indulged and over-praised; they are told that all they do is wonderful, and yet many of these prodigies can neither feed nor dress themselves. Through the want of active employment,

either of work or play, they become idle and helpless. As they are not taught to work, they do not learn to appreciate the value of time, and in after years this is one of the most difficult lessons to inculcate. Having drifted through childhood, they are content to drift through life, unless the important habits of punctuality, regularity, and precision are cultivated. Educators of the Blind must recognize not only the want of one of the five senses, but all the physical defects and mental peculiarities which naturally arise from blindness. Until these fundamental difficulties have been met and overcome, it will be impossible to give the special training necessary to prepare the Blind for useful and active independence.

Mental Training. In each school, the curriculum must be varied according to the age and capacity of the pupils, but the teacher's object should be, to develop the powers of observation, train the reasoning faculties, strengthen the memory, cultivate the power of clear and concise expression, and stimulate a love of reading and literature.

Playgrounds. The ordinary lessons in reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, language, &c., are far less important than teaching the little blind pupils to be active, playful children. This is only possible when you have large, suitably arranged playgrounds, practical gymnasias, and all other necessary adjuncts. The following paragraph from the *London Times* gives a concise description of our College Grounds:—" 'Windermere,' recently purchased, contains four-and-a-half acres, and with the existing eleven-and-a-half acres of the College Grounds, forms one of the most picturesque properties South of the Thames. It includes playgrounds admirably arranged, a cycle track, a 'barre a pied' alley, a plot for hammer-throwing and shot-pitching, numerous walks, a lakelet where the pupils learn to row, beautiful flower beds, and lovely grass slopes, shaded by fine trees, interspersed with a variety of swings, tilts, rocking-boats, rob-roys, giant-strides, balance-beam, &c. Rarely in so small an area is there to be found such a combination of the useful and practical, side by side with the beautiful."

Physical Education. The education and training of the Blind, whether literary, musical, or mechanical, will not be crowned with practical success unless it is based upon a thorough system of physical development. As a class they are timid, awkward, and helpless, and their surroundings do not, as a rule, favour the development of manly character. Energy, indomitable courage, and that fixed determination, which carries men over all difficulties, are usually wanting. The special Institutions which have been established for the benefit of the class may generally recognize these facts, but they do not apply the practical methods adopted in sighted schools. Only compare the exercise given in our schools for the Blind, with the cricket, football, races, boating, &c., of schools like Eton, Harrow, Winchester, and others. Our constant aim has been to discover and arrange suitable games and out-door sports, which will offer irresistible attractions to the Blind.

"Armitage" Gymnasium. Before the College building was completed, thanks to the liberality of Dr. T. R. Armitage, a gymnasium was provided. This "Armitage" Gymnasium has been constantly enlarged and improved, until it now combines the best features of the Swedish, German, English, and American systems. It has been pronounced by leading physical educators as most complete and unique. Swedish ladders, German vaulting-horses, English home-trainers, stand in close proximity to Sargent's developing machines, making a total of forty-eight distinct pieces of apparatus. A portion of the gymnasium floor has been adapted for roller-skating, that, when the weather is unfavourable for skating on the outdoor rink, we may not be deprived of the exhilaration and delight of rollers. The entire floor of the Fawcett Memorial Gymnasium, which belongs exclusively to the girls, is in asphalt, a capital skating surface.

"Armitage" Swimming-Bath. The "Armitage" Swimming-Bath is 55-ft. by 25-ft., and has a depth of from 3-ft. to 6-ft., thus affording excellent facilities for all forms of ornamental swimming, as well as acquiring useful

knowledge in the rescue of, release from, and resuscitation of drowning persons, according to the methods of the Life Saving Society.

Cycling. Cycling, rowing, and swimming are systematically taught ; the pupils are arranged in classes, and a man devotes several hours daily to this work. But gymnasia, rinks, play-grounds, and cycles avail little without personal enthusiasm. The teachers should be ready not only to join, but lead in the games of the children, as though they were again boys and girls at school. To-morrow, several of our teachers, my son, and self, are going with a large cycling party to visit a friend in the country. After a lunch in his beautiful grounds, they will return to the College, having made a run of fifty miles. Most Institutions now give more or less attention to Calisthenics, Gymnastics, and Military Drill, but class-training, though absolutely essential, will never develop that spontaneous love of play observable among seeing boys and girls.

Junior Technical Instruction. Technical training, or the proper use of tools, should form an important part of the early education of blind children. As soon as the children can hammer, saw, and plane, they should enter upon a graded course of training, which they should pursue, step by step, as methodically as their school studies. In the College we use a modification of the Swedish Slojd. Such a course awakens the perceptive faculties, gives activity to the body, and prepares the hands and fingers for pianoforte playing, pianoforte tuning, or handicraft. If the blind child has no gifts for literary and musical studies, or pianoforte tuning, *early* technical training will make him a more skilful mechanic and a more successful bread winner.

Result shewn in after-work. The utility of such a plan will become evident to anyone who will observe two pupils entering our pianoforte tuning department, the one from our Preparatory School, the other from some School where he has not had early technical training. The former, with deft fingers,

forms the pianoforte eyes with neatness, winds the pins with regularity, uses the pliers and tuning-hammer with strength and dexterity, he seems scarcely to need his eyes, while the latter, awkward and clumsy, requires weeks, sometimes months, to learn the simplest things. The one is ready to grapple at once with the mechanical difficulties in pianoforte tuning and repairing, while the other requires a course in elementary mechanical training. *Manual dexterity must be developed.* It is worse than useless to put an awkward, helpless, blind lad to work on a complicated pianoforte. When he has learned to use hammer, saw, and plane, he is ready to take up the more delicate work required in pianoforte tuning.

Pianoforte Tuning. Pianoforte tuning is an excellent employment for the Blind, and one in which they have certain advantages. Many can be trained to become successful pianoforte tuners, when they have reached an age that renders professional training impossible. The Blind who wish to succeed as pianoforte tuners must not despise the drudgery of small details; they must serve a regular apprenticeship, and fit themselves for practical business; they must work a number of hours daily (under suitable tuition) for several years.

Grip Even if a good ear and other requisites are possessed, long tuition is necessary to bring the muscles of the hand and wrist under control.

Dumb-Bells. We have just introduced the use of Sandow's new grip dumbbells, and this is proving of great practical utility in strengthening the hands and fingers.

Essentials 1. A blind man who would be a successful pianoforte tuner, must be intelligent, polite, business-like, neat in his dress and personal appearance, easy and independent in his movement, and free from disagreeable habits.

2. Technical training should begin as early as possible.

3. Mechanical skill is indispensable. The ability to do light repairs satisfactorily, often settles the question of employ-

ment. The tuner should be able to use his right and left hand equally well, and be skilful with a lever hammer.

4. Rapidity of execution is no less important than good work.

5. It is absolutely essential that they should be thoroughly acquainted with every variety of instrument, both of home and foreign manufacture. It is easy to teach a blind lad to turn a tuning hammer, or recognise the pitch of a note, but to bring him up to the standard in these essentials, which are requisite to success, requires constant and unwearied supervision. He must be as diligent, energetic, and persevering as the seeing apprentice, and willing to give even more time for the necessary preparation. The perfunctory work of blind pupils who merely linger two or three hours daily over a piano, accomplishes very little towards fitting them for business. After a careful examination, every duly qualified tuner should be furnished with an official certificate, and tuners who cannot take the required examinations ought not to be allowed to impose upon the public. Pianoforte tuning will cease to be a good and successful employment for the Blind, unless the work is thoroughly and effectively carried out.

Musical Instruction. When properly taught, Music is the best avocation for the Blind. In addition to the physical, technical, and mental training, the very best musical instruction must be given at an *early age*, if music is to become a practical resource to large numbers of the class. You must not expect your blind children to succeed without the same careful daily instruction and practice you afford your seeing children who expect to follow the same profession in after life. It is necessary not only to have good teaching and superintendence of practice, but an ample supply of good musical instruments. At the Royal Normal College we have five organs and about one hundred pianos.

Professors. In all branches of the art, the services of the very best Professors should be secured. If the blind musician is to rise above mediocrity, systematic musical instruc-

tion in childhood is indispensable, and good instruction will avail very little, unless the practice is under constant and judicious supervision.

No amount of teaching, even the best, can take the place of regular, intelligent study and practice. It is commonly supposed that the Blind are indefatigable in their efforts to learn, especially music. After many years' experience, however, I am convinced that it requires more effort to obtain thorough *systematic* work from blind than sighted students. Teachers of the Blind not only require patience, tact, and ability, but they need a large reserve of enthusiasm to arouse and call into activity the dormant faculties of their pupils.

Mental Training Blind persons who intend to follow music as a profession must have well disciplined

Essential. minds, capable of analysing and dealing with music from an intellectual point of view. If the mental faculties have not been developed and thoroughly disciplined, the blind music teacher or organist, however well he may play or sing, will generally be a failure. Even with superior mental training, the musical instruction must be more thorough, more analytical, more comprehensive than corresponding instruction given to seeing students. The musical instruction in its several branches of harmony, pianoforte, organ, and vocal culture, should be addressed to the mind, not merely to the ear. This is the only method by which musical training can be made of practical use to the Blind.

Concerts and Recitals. The indirect instruction is scarcely less important than the direct, and the latter is by no means complete without it. Concerts, Recitals,

and Lectures should be provided, which will familiarise the pupils with the best works of the great masters, and render their musical culture more comprehensive. At Norwood we have able Professors in every department, who give Recitals and Lectures as a part of the regular work, but in addition, our students have heard not only in the Crystal Palace and Concert Halls of London, but in the Hall of the College many of the

most distinguished pianists, organists, and vocalists both of Europe and America.

It ought not to be expected that good and successful blind teachers can be trained at less cost than seeing teachers. Institutions for the Blind, even if their means are limited, can at least have good elementary musical instruction. In the first instance this may not produce so much effect on the public as choruses learned merely by the ear; but in the end, such a course would promote the truest interests of the Blind, and ensure more liberal support.

Technique. The career of sighted persons is often circumscribed by defective training in childhood. If such are the results with the Seeing, with the Blind the evil effects must be much greater. When the Blind have once contracted bad habits it is difficult, I may say almost impossible, to entirely overcome them. This conclusion is based upon personal experience. In childhood I entered upon the study of music with a zeal that knew no bounds. I was ready for any amount of work, even the most tedious drudgery. Unfortunately the school where I was educated employed a teacher who was a good violinist, but not a pianist. By the time I was sixteen years of age, I had contracted a technic so faulty that years of painstaking study, under the guidance of the best teachers, was scarcely sufficient to overcome the defects. This sad disappointment in the loss of the best years of my life, has exerted a controlling influence in all my endeavours to obtain a thorough training for the Blind from early childhood. If one teacher is employed for all the different departments, as piano, organ, violin, and other musical instruments, singing, harmony, counterpoint, and composition, is it reasonable to expect the blind students to compete with the sighted who are taught by the first Specialists of the day?

M. Louis Braille. Thanks to Louis Braille, a former student and teacher in the "Institution Nationale des Jeunes Aveugles," Paris, the Blind have a musical notation which can be both written and read with facility.

T. B. Armitage, Esq., M.D. The Braille system for literature and music was brought into general use in England

by the late T. R. Armitage, Esq., M.D.

Through his wise, untiring zeal and noble generosity every blind man, woman, and child throughout the English-speaking world can now obtain not only the best literature, but the best music in all branches of the art. His wife and daughter are continuing his noble work for the Blind.

Mr. F. Hall. Mr. F. Hall, Superintendent of the School for the Blind, Jacksonville, Illinois, U.S.A., has perfected a Braille Typewriter, and brought out a Stereotype Maker by which brass plates can be embossed and any number of copies produced. No Institution for the Blind should be without one of these Stereotype Makers and a number of Braille Typewriters.

Mr. H. Stainsby. Mr. Stainsby, Secretary of the School for the Blind, Edgbaston, Birmingham, has brought out a Braille Shorthand Writer; this unquestionably will produce most practical results in the work of the Blind.

Elementary Grades. A National Scheme of Education for the Blind which has for its object to make the Blind a self-sustaining class, should include a properly planned, well-regulated Kindergarten Department for children from five to eight years of age. A Preparatory Department for children from eight to eleven. An Intermediate Department for children from eleven to fourteen. At fourteen years of age the future career of the children can usually be determined, and the pupils should be sent according to ability and future requirements, either to Handicraft Schools, or Colleges where they will be prepared for the University Examinations, or receive a good Secondary Education combined with high-class musical training; in connection with the latter there should be a Pianoforte Tuning School.

Secondary Education. At fourteen years of age the Government should grant professional Students a course of Secondary Education for a period of at least five years, and provide a thorough course of Technical Training for the Blind

who will have to depend upon Handicrafts. And I strongly feel that the Nation should give the same liberal assistance to both men and women who may become blind after school age, if they are not too old to learn some trade which they can utilize. When the Blind have completed their course of training, every Institution ought to adopt and carry out the Saxony system.

Dr. Armitage. In conclusion, I wish to say a few words in regard to the life and special work of my dear friend, the late T. R. Armitage, Esq., M.D. In 1868, Dr. Armitage, being aware of the great improvements which had been made in the education of the Blind in other countries, founded the British and Foreign Blind Association. When I arrived in England in 1871, I immediately called upon Dr. Armitage; he showed me a paper which he had recently read before the Society of Arts on the importance of Pianoforte Tuning as an employment for the Blind, and on the desirability of introducing into all Schools for the Blind in the United Kingdom the Braille musical notation which had been used for many years in Paris with marked success. He urged that piano tuning, and other branches of the profession of music, promised better remuneration to the Blind than any other occupation, but to train them successfully in music, it was necessary to provide a better education than that hitherto obtainable in our Institutions. With him I visited all the schools, workshops, classes, and religious meetings for the Blind—to-day in Pimlico, to-morrow in New Cut, the day after the East End. We spent many hours in these classes; all wished to consult him. He patiently heard, then kindly advised and comforted, he ministered alike to body and soul; work, food, clothing, medicines, and heavenly truths were all in his never failing store. Sometimes he chided for idleness or neglect of duty, but his chiding never became scolding; it was earnest, thoughtful, and prayerful, it rarely ever failed in its purpose. After hours of what would have been weary work for anyone whose heart was not filled to overflowing with love for those whom he was serving, he would stand at the

door and give all the poor people a kind parting word. He possessed the rare and wonderful gift of making the humblest and most ignorant feel that it was his special pleasure to talk with them. His happy manner and pleasant words were like sunshine, and cheered even the most forlorn. When we determined to establish a new Institution, the late Duke of Westminster, and Dr. Armitage, were the largest contributors towards the purchase of our beautiful grounds and the building which fronts on Westow Street. Dr. Armitage contributed liberally towards our Library, gave the large organ in the Music Hall, built and equipped the Boys' Gymnasium, erected our Swimming Bath, and always took the lead when money was required. Being practically blind, he thoroughly understood my difficulties, and consequently my special plans of working. It is mainly due to him, and the generous aid of the Committee of the Gardner Trust, that I have had the opportunity of organizing and perfecting our plans and methods for educating and training the Blind. Without Dr. Armitage, the Royal Normal College would never have been founded.



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